

Course Unit Outline	
Unit Code	W7222
Unit Name	Moral Philosophy
Unit Weighting	9 cps
Type of Unit	Intermediate
Prerequisites, corequisites	W7106 and W7109
Academic Staff	Gerald Gleeson, STB (CIS 1978), MA (Cantab 1987), PhD (Leuven 1989), Associate Professor; John Owens, BA (Canterbury 1978), PhL (Angelicum 1980), DPhil (Munich 1987), Lecturer
Curriculum Objectives	Moral philosophy or ethics is one of the major branches of philosophy and part of the foundational submajor in philosophy in the SCD. This unit will introduce students to the basic questions of, and most common approaches to, moral philosophy, with special reference to those ethical issues and approaches that are relevant to Christian Ethics or Moral Theology.
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this unit students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Compare and contrast at least two of the major ethical theories b. Read and critically evaluate relevant philosophical texts. c. Identify the role of intention in the ethical evaluation of human acts d. Explain the connections between philosophical accounts of human action, moral virtue and natural law. e. Engage with some contemporary moral issues in a philosophically informed way
Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit	The distinction between moral evaluation and social science descriptions of human activities
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contrasts between law, the social sciences and ethics 2. Varieties of utilitarianism. 3. Kantian ethics. 4. Intention and human action. 5. The moral virtues and natural law. 6. Prudence, conscience and moral decision making.
Teaching Methods	Lectures, Seminar discussions and Student Presentations
Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment	n/a
Assessment Profile	<p>Assessments tasks are designed both to help students attain the unit outcomes and to enable teachers to assess student attainment. In this unit, the required assessment tasks will enable students to demonstrate how successfully they can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage critically with selected philosophical texts and arguments, e.g. in a short essay or seminar presentation [Outcomes a, b] 2. Defend their own moral evaluation of a contested moral issue in the light of a Thomistic moral philosophy, e.g. in a student debate or in an essay or an oral examination. [Outcomes c, d, e,] 3. Critically evaluate different approaches to the moral life, e.g. in a long essay [Outcomes a, b]
Representative References	

1. Chappell, T. D. J. *Understanding Human Goods*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1998.
2. Chappell, T. D. *Ethics and Experience*. Durham: Acumen, 2009.
3. Foot, Philippa. *Natural Goodness*. Oxford: Clarendon, 2001.
4. Kekes, John. *Moral Wisdom and Good Lives*. Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 1995.
5. Knight, Kelvin (ed.). *The MacIntyre Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell (Polity Press), 1998.
6. Kotva, Joseph J. Jr. *The Christian Case for Virtue Ethics*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 1996
7. MacDonald Scott & Stump, Eleonore. *Aquinas's Moral Theory. Essays in Honor of Norman Kretzmann*. Ithaca & London: Cornell University Press, 1999.
8. MacIntyre, Alastair. *Three Rival Versions of Moral Inquiry*. London: Duckworth, 1990.
9. Nelson, Daniel Mark. *The Priority of Prudence*. University Park, PE: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1992.
10. Pinckaers OP, Servais. *The Sources of Christian Ethics*. Sr. Mary Thomas Noble, OP (trans.) Washington DC: CUA Press, 1995.
11. Pope, Stephen J. (ed.) *The Ethics of Aquinas*. Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, 2002.
12. Porter, Jean. *Nature as Reason: A Thomistic Theory of the Natural Law*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans, 2005.
13. Rhonheimer, Martin. *The Perspective of the Acting Person* (William F. Murphy etc.) Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2008.
14. Simon, Yves. *The Definition of Moral Virtue*. New York: Fordham University Press, 1986
15. Spaemann, Robert. *Happiness and Benevolence*. (Jeremiah Alberg, SJ trans.), Notre Dame & London: University of Notre Dame Press, 2000.
16. Taylor, Charles. *The Sources of the Self*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989.